

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 9 as indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article package, comprising:

at least one absorbent article;

a wrapper material configured into a pouch having a front and back surface, closed bottom and sides, and an open top, said absorbent article carried in said pouch;

a panel disposed across said back surface, said panel having a top edge, opposite a top edge of said front surface to define ~~contiguous with~~ said open top, a bottom edge, and side edges sealed to said pouch sides, said panel having a length between said top and bottom edges so as to extend less than about half-way down said pouch back surface; and

wherein to seal said absorbent article into said pouch, said panel is pulled over said open top of said pouch with said panel sides remaining sealed to said pouch sides such that said open top of said pouch is sealed by a single material layer defined by said panel, and to unseal said pouch to remove said absorbent article, said panel is pulled back over said open top to said back surface of said pouch.

2. (Original) The package as in claim 1, wherein said panel is formed of said wrapper material and continuous with said pouch back surface.

3. (Original) The package as in claim 2, wherein said wrapper material comprises a continuous strip of material having a first end portion folded at a first fold axis, and a second end portion folded in an opposite direction at a second fold axis, said first end portion defining said pouch front surface, said material between said first and second axis defining said pouch back surface, and said second end

portion defining said panel.

4. (Original) The package as in claim 3, wherein said sides of said first portion are sealed to said sides of said back portion to define said closed pouch sides, and said sides of said panel are sealed to said pouch sides.

5. (Original) The package as in claim 3, wherein said panel extends about one-third of the way down said back surface.

6. (Original) The package as in claim 1, wherein said wrapper material comprises at least one liquid impervious film layer.

7. (Original) The package as in claim 1, wherein said wrapper material comprises a film/non-woven laminate.

8. (Original) The package as in claim 1, wherein said open top is defined by aligned ends of said back surface and said front surface.

9. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article package, comprising:
a wrapper material configured into a pouch having an open top, said pouch having an absorbent article carried therein;

a portion of said wrapper material folded at a fold axis co-extensive with said open top, said portion folded away from said open top so as to extend along a back surface of said pouch, wherein said pouch is closed upon positioning a single material layer defined by said portion;

said portion having sides bonded to sides of said pouch and an edge unbonded to said back surface between said bonded sides.

10. (Original) The package as in claim 9, wherein said portion extends less than about half-way down said back surface.

11. (Original) The package as in claim 9, wherein said pouch has a closed bottom defined by a different fold of said wrapper material.

12. (Original) The package as in claim 11, wherein said pouch has sealed sides defined by bonded aligned sides of said wrapper material extending from said different fold to said open top.

13. (Original) The package as in claim 12, wherein said portion sides are bonded with said aligned sides of said wrapper material in a single bonding operation.